



The Ames Intelligencer

Published by Ames Heritage Association, Inc.

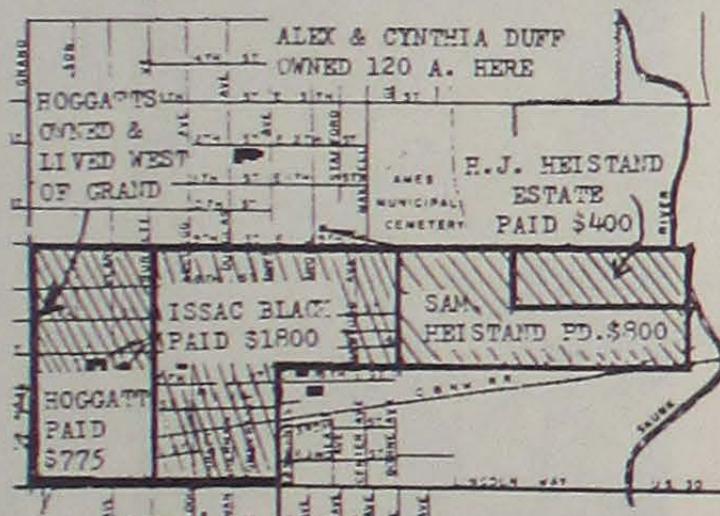
Issue 1 of 3

Spring 1998

Lucian Quincy Hoggatt: Colorful Ames Pioneer Left His Mark On Early Ames

Article by Kathy Svec

Lucian Quincy Hoggatt arrived in Story County from Indiana in 1860 and built a cabin on a tract of prairie just south of where the DOT is now located. When he officially received a government claim, he put the cabin on skids and pulled it to a spot north of what is now Lincoln Way, and west Grand. When the area between the Skunk River and Squaw Creek was sited as a possible depot location for the advancing rail line, Hoggatt and several other land owners in the area opposed selling to the railroad, not wanting the "monster at their door".



When an inquiry to purchase was forwarded by Cynthia Duff, supposedly for her uncle back east, he sold his land between Grand and Burnett to her. It is well known that Cynthia's "uncle" was indeed the railroad. Hoggatt's land was eventually crossed by two railroads, which he came to support.

In 1861, Hoggatt was elected the fourth sheriff of Story County. During this term, he enlisted in the Union army but his Civil War service was

cut short by a farming accident just before his departure. The accident resulted in the loss of his leg. Though he was denied his fighting career, he was able to pursue one in politics.

He was known as a rough and tumble fighter, a fiery and spell binding orator who was not above confusing the issues when opponents rose to debate. On at least one occasion, he managed to divert attention by driving pins into his cork leg while the other fellow was talking!

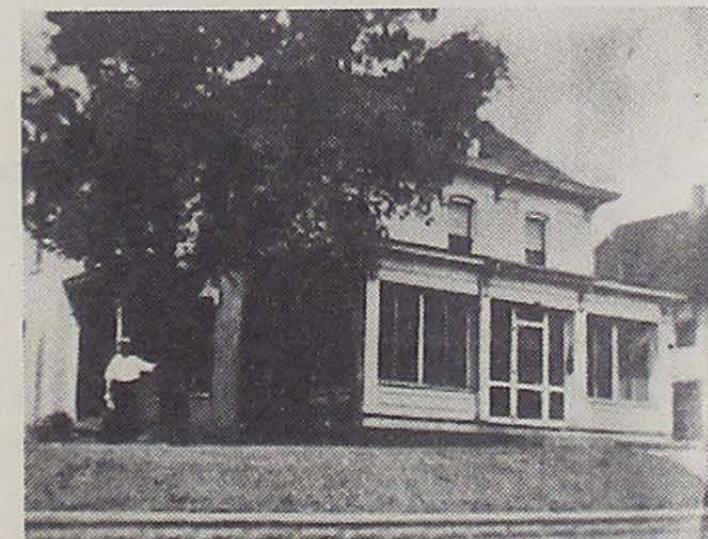
In 1862, "Hoggatt School" was built on land given by the Hoggatts, largely to educate his own children. In 1863, he was re-elected sheriff, and the next year Ames was established and its first streets laid out. By 1866, Hoggatt was a partner in a grain warehouse, among the first commercial ventures in Ames. He served as the town's second postmaster in 1869, and five years later was elected to represent Story County in the 15th General Assembly of Iowa, serving two years.

In 1878, at age 63, he was the "greenback" candidate for the 9th District congressional seat. Though defeated, he toured Iowa in his famous one-horse buckboard, delivering impassioned speeches.

7 Sept. 1893

Col. Hoggatt has been very much under the weather for the last week. Sunday he was quite seriously sick, but he is somewhat better now.

Born in 1815, Hoggatt died just shortly of his 81st birthday in 1896. He lived by these words: "Augment the happiness and decrease the woes of mankind." A man of many talents, and occupations, he worked as a farmer, flatboatman, mechanic, tanner, merchandiser and was described as a person of "energy and stir". Although his schooling ended at age 13, he was an avid reader and possessed a prodigious memory, making him a formidable foe in debates. His interest in public questions never died, and he would often change sides depending on the issue at hand. His expressed wish during his last illness was that he might live to cast one more vote, and see the results of another election.



Lucian and his wife Abigail raised a family of nine children, seven girls and two boys. In 1873, the Hoggatts built a magnificent brick house on the site of the present-day Pyle Office Park at 5th and Grand. An addition to the house was built in 1890, a two-story connecting hallway, complete with a balcony. The house proudly boasted the second bathtub in Ames!

The road at the western edge of Ames leading to Hoggatt's farm was

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called Hoggatt Street. Despite its formidable namesake, local humorists referred to the lane as "Pig Alley". Residents petitioned to have the name changed, and in 1909 Hoggatt Street became Grand Avenue.

Note: There is no known picture of L.Q. Hoggatt.

Ames History Resources at Ames Public Library

The Ames Public Library houses the most extensive archive in Ames of print and paper items relating to Ames history. Here is a listing of those resources. For more information or assistance, inquire at the Information Services counter.

In the Iowa Room:

Farwell Brown personal research files
Farwell Brown Photo Collection
pamphlet file master copies
city government documents
school board documents
city directories
yearbooks: ISU Bomb, AHS Spirit
state historical society publications
Women's Club, Kiwanis and Jaycees
archives
index of county probate records
local history tapes
Ladies Home Journal from 1890

In General Collection & Reference:
Look under 977.7 for Ames-related books and indexes

In pamphlet files:

In Ames section: biographical information on Ames persons and other topics. Pamphlet files have been indexed through 1993.

On microfilm:

Ames Intelligencer, starting 1877
Ames Evening Times
Milepost
Daily Tribune
Census records, early Iowa & Ames

Daily Tribune Index

Starts in 1994 - can be found on the computer screen in the category listing for the on-line catalog.

What Do You Think? Let Us Know At 1998 Annual Membership Meeting On April 15

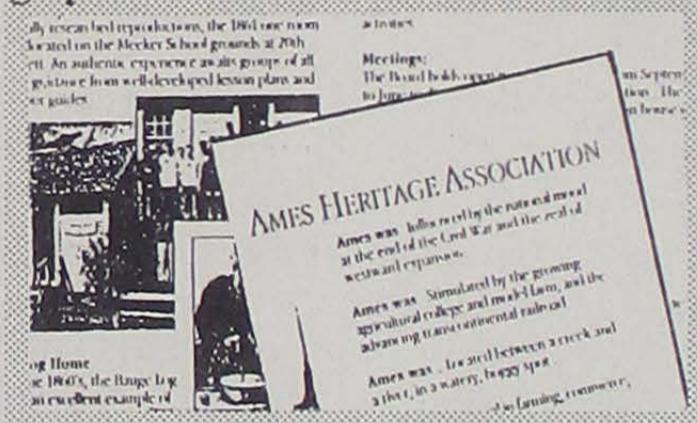
The annual meeting of the membership will occur during the April board meeting on April 15, in the Founders Suite at the Public Library at 7:30pm. The activities of the last year will be summarized and the financial report and slate of nominees for the Board will be presented for approval.

Members are encouraged to attend to give the Board guidance in their planning for the coming year, to become involved in Association projects and to approve new Board members.

See you on April 15th!

New AHA Information Brochure Designed

The Association has a new general information brochure, thanks to the design skills of Michael Marti, graphic artist for Ames Lab at ISU. The brochure describes the activities of the Association and Marti's design incorporates historic and contemporary photographs.



Octagon Offers Ames "Herstory" Workshop May 4 & 11

Celebrate Ames history by learning about some of the notable women who helped to shape the early days of Ames and influence its future.

The workshop is being offered through the Octagon's spring class program and will meet May 4 and 11 from 7:30-8:30pm. It will be taught by Sharon Wirth, local preservationist. Registration is \$12. Call 232-5331 for more information or to register.

Story County Historical Alliance Meets April 18

The Story County Historical Alliance has grown out of the Story County Sesquicentennial Commission, and it meets quarterly in various locations in the county. The Alliance is a loosely structured organization whose goal is to create regular networking opportunities for history-minded people, to create an awareness and to promote county historic resources and to hold workshops to educate each other about issues associated with the preservation of our county history.

The next meeting will be April 18, in Nevada at 10am. The group will meet at the Dyer-Dowell House, then tour the Dutton House, which was recently donated and will be restored. The tour will give a "before" overview!

Any interested person may attend. Please call Priscilla Matt at 232-7688 to RSVP. Bring a sack lunch.



Ames Heritage Tree At Fantasy Of Trees

AHA President, Kathy Svec, stands next to the Ames Heritage Tree at Fantasy of Trees last November. The tree featured time line garlands, and historic pictures of Ames from Farwell Brown's collection.

F.T. Brown Auditorium Becomes "Official"

The Farwell T. Brown Auditorium became "official" on Sunday, March 1, when friends of Ames Historian, Farwell T. Brown, gathered at the Ames Public Library to formally dedicate a plaque bearing his likeness and an inscription about his important work for the city of Ames.

Sponsored by Ames Public Library and the Ames Foundation, the dedication party included music by the Ames High String Quartet and presentations by individuals introduced by Library Director Gina Millsap.

In addition to Millsap, speakers were Mayor Ted Tedesco, Susan Benson, president, Library Board of Trustees, Floyd Penhus, vice president of the Ames Foundation, Kathy Svec, Ames Heritage Association president and Janet Klaas, information services librarian for the Public Library. Each speaker focused on their personal and professional interaction with the honoree, alternating between serious and lighthearted!

Farwell himself concluded the formal program, as he recalled some of his Ames experiences and expressed the pleasure he and his wife Ruth feel as a result of the recognition. Members of the audience then moved to the auditorium entrance where Penhus unveiled the plaque, located just to the right of the door.

Many of Brown's photographs and materials have been made available to the library and have been catalogued by Klaas for use. Among them are eleven videotapes featuring his narrations on various aspects of Ames history. These tapes are available for check out.

Iowa Heritage Expo 98 Set For June 11-13

The 1998 annual conference of the State Historical Society will be presented June 11-13 in Des Moines. The theme, *Migration in History: People, Ideas, Culture*, will encompass an array of stimulating topics for all types of history-minded people. For a brochure, call 515-281-5229, or e-mail llee1@max.state.ia.us.

Update About Museum Planning Project

The Association's museum planning committee has been meeting steadily since September 1994, when a town meeting was held which asked the question, "Should Ames have a historical museum?".

The museum planning group was told to "start small but think big" and encouraged to begin.

At that meeting, each person was given a chance to speak. Six general themes emerged from those comments:
1) preserve Ames, ISU, county and surrounding area history;
2) develop a well-planned and professional museum; 3) provide an experiential, interactive program for visitors of all ages, especially children; 4) provide an accessible location and lots of parking; 5) provide a tourist destination for Ames visitors; and 6) work cooperatively with other area groups to enhance the cultural life of Ames. The museum planning group was told to "start small but think big" and encouraged to begin.

Committee members have immersed themselves in a lengthy learning process by reading, attending conferences and workshops and visiting with other museum professionals. The candid advice received from these professionals has been heartening and helpful - such as -find a unique hook, tell a story that is yours alone; don't skimp on storage; get a good computer; don't get landlocked in your location; have your exhibit space be extremely flexible; don't put the water pipes through your storage area; don't have a flat roof.

Other towns have been examined for models. In Bettendorf, the museum which just opened was the result of a collaboration between the library and the cultural arts society. In Kalamazoo MI, their new museum was a collaboration between the community college, downtown redevelopment and historical interests. In Waterloo, the Grout

Museum, through an evolutionary process, unified management of three facilities that had been functioning separately - a science & history museum, a children's discovery center and a historic residence.

The planning committee has written a mission statement and further delineated that philosophy with specific goals for historic collections, programs & education, tourism, facility & site, and funding. It has incorporated, written by-laws. It has asked for and received money from City Council for the planning process and Council has agreed to hold the former water treatment plant as a potential site while we refine our plans. It has applied for and received a Historic Resources Development Program grant through REAP (State of Iowa). It has assembled and displayed several exhibitions and is preparing to write a collection policy.

In April 1997, a market researcher conducted several focus groups to get feedback on the concept of a historical museum and cultural center for Ames. He assembled a completely random group of citizens, most of whom were unfamiliar with our efforts. We found that a museum was not at the top of people's minds, but that when the idea was introduced it was quickly endorsed. We heard encouragement and concerns.

We heard encouragement and we heard concerns.

We were encouraged to serve people of all ages, to create an engaging, changing and experience-based program, to be professional, and to have the facility accessible by public transportation. They

were concerned about funding, location, competing with Des Moines, about further draining the pool of community volunteers and about planning well.

The planning committee also shares these concerns, but were encouraged by the focus groups, especially since they reinforced much of what has already been learned.

After the focus groups, the planners went back the idea introduced in that 1994 Town meeting - #6) work cooperatively with other area groups to enhance the cultural life of Ames.

In June 1997 the planners hosted a gathering and invited Actors, the Octagon, University Museums, Public Library, Schools, DOT and ACVB, as well as several members of City Council. Our goal was explained - which is to tell the unique story of Ames, Iowa through the collection of artifacts and the creation of an experience-based, cross disciplinary program which appeals to people of all ages. We feel the unique story of Ames is the story of discovery - how research, science, technology and education have changed the way we live and work. It is our view that this unique story can be very engagingly told by a more seamless continuity of experiences where history, art and the humanities - past, present, future - are not fiercely segregated. The idea to pool resources and create a critical mass of activity where everyone wins, everyone stimulates each other was laid out, with the invitation to become partners in our project. Since then, Ames Community Theater (Actors) and a group planning a children's museum have made the commitment to become active partners. In addition, interest in sharing programs has been expressed by the Octagon, University Museums and Ames Schools.

The next steps are: 1) write a more complete description of the project and the facility in what fund-raisers refer to as a "casebook" by the end of March 1998. 2) with the casebook in hand, hire a researcher to survey Ames citizens to be sure we are on solid ground with community support, by mid- to end of May 1998. 3) engage a fundraising expert to put together the funding plan and a timetable for action, by the end of the summer. 4) hire an architect to create a program plan for a facility by the end of the year.

The planning committee:
Rollie Struss, Kathy Svec,
Nick Howell, John Nutty, Peggy Baer,
Priscilla Matt, Jim Graham.

Bauge Log Home Open House May 3

Restoration progress on the Bauge Log Home may be viewed on May 3 from 2 - 5pm during the Story County Conservation Board's spring festival.

Since the last open house, the Log Home exterior has been painted, interior floors have been restored and the chimney rebuilt. The open house will be one of many activities taking place at McFarland Park that day.

The public is welcome.



Sturdy steel doors, front and back, have been added to provide security and prevent break-ins at the Bauge Home.

Are You A Current Member? Check Your Label!

The new membership year started on January 1, 1998.

If you can't remember whether or not you have renewed, just check your mailing label below - renewals received since Jan. 1 will have a 1998 date next to the name. If you haven't renewed, please take a moment to do so.

All our activities depend on you!

Memberships start at \$20.

Mail to PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010

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Ames Heritage Association Board: Pres. Kathy Svec; Sec. Kay Beckett; Treas. Bill LaGrange; Jack Adams, Rollie & Willie Struss, Peggy Baer, Leonard Larson, Jerry Litzell. Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and displays. The Board meets the 3rd Wed. of each month, September - June. The Ames Intelligencer is named after an early Ames newspaper and is published three time a year for Association members. Direct comments or questions to the Editor.